tess and smooth

Tess and Smooth sat at the back of the bus, enjoying a rare day off from their jobs. The bus rolled through the foggy streets of their town, the old engine rattling as it moved. Tess was tall and lean, wearing a bright yellow jacket, while Smooth, shorter and stockier, sported a baseball cap pulled low over his eyes. The bus was nearly empty, which made the few passengers, including an old man sleeping near the front, more noticeable.

The bus driver was a hefty woman named Ms. Lou. Her hair was long and wild, resembling an unkempt lion’s mane. She kept glancing in the rearview mirror, her eyes glinting with an odd hunger.

"I'm starving," she suddenly shouted, breaking the silence. "You have no idea how hungry I am!"

Tess exchanged a worried look with Smooth. "Is she serious?" Tess whispered.

Smooth shrugged and leaned closer. "Maybe she just hasn't eaten all day.”

"But look at her," Tess said, her voice shaking. "She seems... different."

Just then, the bus hit a bump, and Ms. Lou's grip tightened on the wheel. She let out a low growl, startling everyone. The other passengers shifted in their seats, but it was clear that they were not as worried as Tess and Smooth.

"What’s wrong with her?" Smooth whispered, almost to himself.

"Maybe she needs a snack," Tess said lightly, trying to make a joke. But her heart raced as she noticed something strange in Ms. Lou’s eyes. They seemed to shimmer with a wildness.

Suddenly, Ms. Lou swerved the bus hard and slammed the brakes. The tires screeched, and everyone lunged forward, gripping the seats. Tess gasped as the bus came to a jarring stop.

"Get off the bus!" Ms. Lou shouted, her voice deepening. “I'm so damn hungry!”

The passengers exchanged terrified glances. An older woman near the front shrieked, "What do you mean? Are you crazy?"

In that instant, Ms. Lou’s form began to shift. Her spine bent, and her shoulders hunched as if something inside her was breaking free. The bus hummed with an eerie energy, and Tess's breath hitched in her throat.

"Look! What’s she doing?" Smooth stammered, gripping Tess’s arm.

As Ms. Lou’s body twisted into an unsettling shape, fur started sprouting on her arms. The sound of stretching skin echoed over the old bus’s noises. “I want to taste you,” she growled, voice no longer human.

The passengers screamed, and some scrambled toward the door. Smooth and Tess ducked low, watching in horror as Ms. Lou transformed into a giant humped-back wolf, her eyes glowing like hot coals.

"Run!" Tess yelled, dragging Smooth behind her. They bolted for the back exit, but the bus was already shaking with chaos.

Ms. Lou, now a towering wolf, lunged at a man trying to escape. Tess looked back just in time to see Ms. Lou snap her massive jaws inches from his face, sending him tumbling backward. The bus swayed dangerously, and the floor rattled beneath them.

“We need to get off!” Smooth shouted, fear pumping through him.

Tess pushed toward the back door, but it was stuck; panic flared in her chest. “Help!” she cried out, pounding on the door.

As other passengers surged toward the front, the bus veered to the side and crashed into a streetlight. The loud bang of metal on metal filled the air. Tess lost her balance and fell, rolling away from the chaos.

“Smooth!” she cried, scrambling to her feet. She saw him wedged behind a seat, eyes wide with shock. The wolf was stalking the front, growling hungrily and tracking its next prey.

Tess couldn't breathe as she rushed to help him. “Come on! We need to go!”

Smooth nodded, shaking. “What about everyone else?”

"They might not make it," she said, her heart sinking. The sound of the wolf's growls echoed in her ears as it tore at the bus seats.

In a moment of panic, Tess grabbed Smooth’s arm and pulled him toward the emergency exit at the back. They threw themselves out just as the wolf lunged at another passenger, teeth glistening with saliva.

They landed hard on the pavement, rolling away from the wreckage. They scrambled up just in time to see the wolf leap out of the bus with a fierce howl, spotlighted by the streetlights.

"Run!" Tess screamed, taking off down the street. Smooth followed closely as they ran without looking back, adrenaline coursing through them. They darted around the corner, breathing heavily, until they stumbled onto a well-lit street, where the sounds of the city swallowed their fear.

They paused to catch their breath, watching the bus burn in the distance, fiery tongues licking the night sky. “What was that?” Smooth panted, still shaken.

“I... I don’t know,” Tess replied, her heart racing. “But we need to tell someone. People need to know what happened!”

As they turned to head toward a safe place, the sound of haunting howls echoed behind them. They knew they weren't free yet. The nightmare lurked somewhere close, still hungry.